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3/20/01IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

10-13-01

Applicant: Bannon, et al. Examiner: Huynh, P.  
Serial No.: 09/478,668 Art Unit: 1644  
Filed: January 6, 2000 Group: 1640  
For: METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR DECREASING CLINICAL REACTIONS  
TO ALLERGY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This Response to Office Action is filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2001, rejecting claims 14-29. The following Amendment and Remarks remove all grounds for rejection of the application, thereby placing it in condition for allowance.

**Amendment**

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 14-29.

Please add the following new claims 37-59:

- Pub  
PDI  
C<sub>1</sub>
- 37. A modified protein allergen whose amino acid sequence is substantially identical to that of a natural protein allergen except that about 10 to 17 % of the amino acids have been modified in at least one IgE epitope so that IgE binding to the modified protein allergen is reduced as compared with IgE binding to the natural protein allergen, the at least one IgE epitope being one that is recognized when the natural protein allergen is contacted with serum IgE from an individual that is allergic to the natural protein allergen.